

TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

DATE: 1/8/13

Draft

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Kathy Longacre at 6:00.

TAC members present: Patty Fuller, Charlotte Gorton, Nancy Graves, Bruce Hilton (Commission liaison), Dorothy Jennings, Kathy Longacre, Dallam Oliver-Lee, Sheila Patterson, Doug Tait

Staff: Larry Iaquinto

Public: none

2. Public comment. none

3. Review notes: prior meeting of November 13, 2012

Accepted as presented.

4. Parks and Recreation Commission Report to TAC – Dorothy Jennings

Dorothy was unable to attend the combined November-December meeting.

5. Update on OTO's - Senior Planner Shaun Cooper

Shaun made the following report covering many ongoing projects.

Outstanding Trail Easement Offers- research on remaining easement offers needs to be completed prior to review by the TAC subcommittee and PRC, for recommendation to the BOS.

Bob Jones Trail - The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) studies have been completed by SWCA, reviewed by Caltrans and final comments are being incorporated into the final documents. These studies are being incorporated into the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), by the consultant (PMC). The Administrative Draft EIR is currently under review by staff.

Octagon Barn Staging Area – County Parks is coordinating with the Land Conservancy on the Octagon Barn site improvements that will serve the Bob Jones Trail staging area. A grant proposal will be submitted, in the spring, for the second round of Prop-84 Storm Water funding, for the construction of a low impact development parking lot. Work continues with the Land Conservancy and Real Property Services on a formal agreement outlining the shared use of the site and the proposed improvements.

Avila to Hartford Pier Path – This project is currently under contract for the Opportunities/Constraints Analysis and Preliminary Design. A second community workshop, to present the preliminary design, is planned for spring, 2013. The workshop will be held at the Coastal Gateway Building at Port San Luis.

North County Salinas River Trail – This is a multi-agency cooperative effort to complete a master plan for the Salinas River trail between Santa Margarita and San Miguel. Design Consultant (KTU + A Planning and Landscape Architects) has been hired by SLOCOG and has begun work.

Morro Bay to Cayucos Connector – An application for a coastal development permit is being prepared for submittal to the County Planning Department and the California Coastal Commission.

Cave Landing Trail - An application for a coastal development permit has been submitted to the County Planning Department and the California Coastal Commission. \$1,400,000 in grant funding has been secured for construction completion.

Sapwi Trail Extension- Environmental review is completed. Volunteers will complete work as time and weather conditions allow.

Santa Margarita to Garden Farms Trail Easement- Property owner and County are working on the terms of the Easement Agreement (agreement has been reviewed and edited by Parks Staff, County Counsel, and Real Property Services). The next step will be to hire a surveyor to prepare legal descriptions and exhibits.

Elfin Forest Improvements- County Parks, in cooperation with the California Conservation Corps, the Coastal Commission, the Small Wilderness Area Preservation group, and the Planning Department has coordinated boardwalk improvements in the Elfin Forest. Improvements include: boardwalk repairs; installation of new symbolic fencing and vinyl fencing; and installation of new steps and handrails, providing access to the boardwalk.

6. **Staff Report- Larry Iaquinto**

Approval was given to complete the Environmental review for the extension of the Sapwi trail at SML. 3CMB will be doing the work, which will begin once park staff coordinates volunteers and weather cooperates.

Shaun and I went out to the Elfin Forest to review the work completed by SWAP to repair existing boardwalk, restore benches and add several steps to outlying trails.

7. **State Parks Report- Brooke**

Kathy reported that a trail machine constructed 2.2 miles of trail in Montana de Oro over a 7-8 day period. The Oates Peak Trail is a re-routing of a tough out and back trail. The new trail creates 2 loops with the Valencia Trail, a more pleasant experience. The trail needs to winter over this year and perhaps a second year before being officially opened. However, hiking is being allowed.

8. **Immediate goals and objectives.**

a) Anza Trail/ North County – Dorothy Jennings

The consultant team for the Anza Trail – Salinas River Corridor Master Plan conducted its first workshop in Templeton in December. Templeton was chosen because it is midway between San Miguel and Santa Margarita. The evening event was very well attended with many opportunities to be engaged in a number of trail-related exercises and topic tables. To keep in touch with activities and to participate in a survey, see salinasrivertrail.com

Charlotte who also attended the workshop made a report. The first workshop was held to a standing room only crowd on the evening of Monday December 10th from 6-8pm at the Templeton Community Center. Participants learned details about the project, the project timeline, and were asked to give input into the vision of the future trail between Santa Margarita and San Miguel. Participants also viewed maps and gave input into current usage of the river corridor, as well as issues and opportunities. The presentation also included possible issues related to the project.

However, despite a very few negative NIMBY people in the crowd, the overall mood of the crowd was receptive and excited.

The National Park Service created the Anza Expedition Story, a half-hour educational DVD. A copy belongs to the Amigos de Anza-SLO and is available to borrow. Kathy returned the film and Charlotte asked to borrow it. The film is also on the Internet <http://youtu.be/uPwSliMxeiU>

b) Anza Trail/ South County – Bruce Hilton

Parks' staff report to the Board of Supervisors regarding Edna parcels has been re-scheduled for 1/29/13.

Bruce reported he received an email notice the night before that the Price Canyon Spanish Springs project is being reviewed at the Pismo City Park and Rec meeting on 1/10. This project includes a section of the Anza Trail.

Dallam researched the former Pacific Coast Railroad route. County records are out of date giving the appearance that the County owned most of the old railroad right-of-way. Larry explained that when the railroad went out of business these easements were transferred to the county as part of the legal process. Later they were relinquished to the underlying property owner.

Dallam had put a lot of effort into his research. Kathy added she too was likewise disappointed several years earlier when this route was reviewed as a possible Rails-to-Trails project. The committee expressed their appreciation for Dallam's work and did not want him to be discouraged.

c) Coastal Trails Update - Nancy Graves

Not much to report on the Coastal Trail for this meeting. But also would like to encourage Trail folks to attend and also push for no reduction in the ECOSLO contracts with the city. I have also included Carolyn Huddleston who will be representing ECOSLO at the TAC. I believe she has something to report on a trail workday at Lopez.

By the way Coastal Commission is meeting in Pismo January 9-11.

d) Bob Jones Trail - Helene Finger

The County received the Administrative Draft EIR (ADEIR) from the consultant for the section of the Bob Jones Trail from Ontario Rd to the Octagon barn on December 10, 2012. It is expected that the draft EIR will go out for public comment in March.

The City will go to the CTC in March to request allocation of funds to construct the section connecting the trail from Prado Rd to LOVR. Before this can happen, Caltrans is requiring the City Council to approve a resolution to accept the right-of-way. This consent item is on the agenda for 1/22/13. Construction is expected this summer.

The City of SLO is using mindmixer for the Land and Circulation update. Visit slo2035.com to add your comments.

e) Nipomo Pathways & Woodlands Trail – Patty Fuller and Sheila Patterson, Ride Nipomo

Inga Trail was cleaned up from a pine tree that fell. Two rails were broken and replaced. The wood from the tree was cut up and removed. Knollwood One, off of Sun Dale, has had a lot of trash dropped off – chairs, a mattress,

cabinet, etc. It has all been removed. The other trails have been monitored and there is nothing else to report.

f) Templeton Easements / Vineyard Trail – Paul Winkler

No report.

g) Atascadero Area Trail Connections – Jonalee Istenes

No report. However it was noted that in December there was a public meeting about the Eagle Ranch development.

h) SM Lake Loop Trail and extension trail – Greg Bettencourt/Kathy Redden

Now that we have the green light to proceed on the Sapwi Trail Extension at Santa Margarita Lake, let the fun begin. Joe and I met with Chuck Woodard, SM Lake Park Ranger on Friday. We have a few sections that need route corridors established. We will be working on those sections as soon as next week. If you would like to help out. Let Joe or myself know. Workdays will most likely be Sunday and/or Mondays, and possibly a Wednesday here and there for variety.

h) Lopez Lake Trails- Doug Tait

Trails status: with mainly light and infrequent rain events so far this winter, the trails remain open for visitor use. Parks staff will close trails for erosion control protection and visitor safety during wet conditions.

Trail work: The California Conservation Corps, (CCC), have been removing old, exposed re-bar on the Turkey Ridge trail. To date, 20-30 pieces of unsafe re-bar have been removed. Ranger staff and volunteers will be conducting winter trail maintenance, and updating trail signage.

Volunteer work days: Scheduled trail work days at Lopez are: Saturday April 27, and Saturday May 4, 2013 - so far.

Friends of Lopez Lake: has dedicated, and installed, a memorial plaque on a rest bench across from Escondido group area honoring Kent Neal. Kent was a tireless trail volunteer assisting park staff, his volunteer efforts benefited trail users at Lopez Lake.

j) Volunteer work parties – Carolyn Huddleston

Carolyn will be representing ECOSLO on the TAC, but I won't be there tonight since it is important that I am at the meeting for the City of SLO. (Although I would be up for moving the meeting to 5 p.m., if we could get everyone's agreement in time.)

I think what Nancy Graves was referring to regarding Lopez Lake, is that ECOSLO will be involved with the Outdoor Discovery Festival on May 11th. We are planning on having a "hike-a-thon" for the kids (longer hikes than what the county rangers will be offering). Although, there will be trail workdays at Lopez on the two weekends leading up to the Outdoor Discovery Festival, on April 27th and May 4th.

As you may know, ECOSLO helps to organize and spread the word about trail workdays for both the county and the city of SLO. If you are interested in helping to maintain our local trails, check out our website at www.ecoslo.org. Especially in these times of budget cuts, if we want our trails to stay open and maintained, we will need to step up and help do some of the work.

Also, as each of you is involved with the various trails in the county - if you are planning workdays, we can put them on our website, and help spread the word.

Many of the local high school and college students have community service hours that they need to fulfill.

9. Approval of Trail Committee Applications. No new applications.

10. On going Action Items:

- . Update on trail connectivity with agencies - SLOCAPRA's October meeting
- . TAC Goals and Objectives for the coming year – July 1 through June 30
- . Protecting Trail Easement Conditions: prior to final map and following occupancy. Issues include safeguarding easement conditions of development and encroachments.
- . Possible joint staff meeting they could discuss with Planning and Public Works how to find out what could be done and how TAC might get involved in recommending solutions to the protection of easements.
- . Discuss development of a policy establishing Clearance Requirements for County Rights of Way (11/03).
- . Establish inventory, determine maintenance and signage needs for trails.

11. New Business

a) Access to the Garcia Wilderness

Bruce explained he is doing some research on legal access to the Garcia Wilderness from the Huasna/Stony Creek area. An additional gate has been installed by a private party, blocking all Arroyo Grande-Huasna Road (County Road #2301) access just north of the old Agua Escondido campground. The old campground was constructed under the federal WPA, a public work program in the 1930s.

b) Equestrian Parking on Grand Ave.

Kathy reported. The Grover Beach Lodge and Conference Center is currently in the hands of the California Coastal Commission. It is anticipated that the most difficult piece to approve will be the location of the Equestrian Staging Area on the south side of Grande Avenue since it requires developing an acre of dune land. It is hoped that since this month's meeting of the Commission is in Pismo Beach that this plan would be on the agenda for consideration. However it did not make the agenda for this meeting (meaning the hearing will be in a remote location, probably LA or Santa Barbara).

Kathy suggested using the CCC's public comment period Thursday Jan 10th at 8:30am is imperative. Now is our opportunity to show widespread support at the local level for a separation of equestrian parking and RV parking.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 PM.

Next meeting is Tuesday March 12 at 6 PM